THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) A Centrally sponsored scheme for integrated development of cashew is being implemented during 1998-99, with an outlay of Rs. 20.00 crores, under which a total assistance @ Rs. 9,100/- per hectare is provided for cutting down old, senile and uneconomical cashew trees and replanting with clones of high yielding varieties. Rs. 2100/- per hectare is provided in three instalments to meet the loss caused by cutting down the trees and Rs. 7,000/-per hectare for replanting/rejuvenation over a period of 5 years for productivity improvement. Under the scheme, an area of 43948 hectare has been replanted during the period 1994-95 to 1997-98 in various States.

Increased Production in Coarse Cereal Cultivation'

1729. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to news-item in the Economic Times dated February 22, 1999 captioned "Call to up area under coarse cereal cultivation"

(b) whether it is a fact that there would be vast benefits to the soil if rotation of crops is practised more vigorously;

(c) if so, whether farmers would get any price incentives to switch to coarse grains and fodder crops;

(d) if not, how does Government propose to make it worthwhile for farmers to grow fodder crops and coarse grains;

(e) whether any suggestions have been sought from State Governments; and

(f) reaction of different States to more emphasis on coarse grains and fodder?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) The Government of India announces each season the Minimum Support Price for major agricultural commodities including coarse grains. The Minimum Support Price fixed by the Government covers not only cost of production but also a reasonable margin of profit as an incentive to improve the production and productivity. Fodder crops are not covered under Minimum Support Price, however, growing of fodder crops is found to be remunerative to the farmers rearing animals for marketing animal produce.

The Government of India is already implementing Centrally Sponsored Schemes for increasing production and productivity of coarse grains and fodder crops. Under the schemes assistance is provided for the transfer of technology through demonstrations and farmers trainings as well as supply of critical inputs.

(e) and (f) The various schemes are formulated in consultations with State Governments.

Cultivation of Hybrid Rice

1730. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to diversify the cultivation of hybrid rice in the country;

(b) whether the United National Development Programmes (UNDP) grants are likely to be obtained for growing hybrid rice;

(c) if so, the States selected for growing such hybrid rice during Ninth Plan;

(d) the amount proposed to be spent under the programme in every State; and

(e) the specific proposal mooted by Government to- increase rice production in Ninth Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir, UNDP under its "Programme for Food Security" is providing

funds for a sub-sectroal project on "Development of Hybrid Rice Technology for large scale Adoption in India" by ICAR.

(c) The important activites of the Sub-programme will be implemented through various agencies across the country. The names of these agencies/States are given in the Statement *(See* below)

(d) The total project which has essentially three main components viz. Research, Seed Production and Extension has UNDP contribution of US $ 2,550,000/- and a counterpart contributions of Government of India of Rs. 367.33 lacs.

(e) The overall increse in the rice production during the IXth plan as ex pected through the UNDP sub-sectoral programme are:

- High yielding hybrids with desirable grain quality characteristics and with resistance to major pests and diseases made available to the farming com munities in the target areas.

-. Seed production package refined to obtain an average seed yield of 2.0-2.5 t/ha. and cultivation package optimised for different hybrids and regions.

- Human resources developed for large scale hybrid rice seed production in public and private sectors, leading to increased rural employment especially for women.

- Increased outreach of the scientific community to the farming community.

- Increased income of farmers and farmwomen in rural areas.

- Large number of rice farmers cultivat ing hybrid rice as a result of creation of awareness by conducting extensive de monstrations, and capacity building for hybrid rice cultivation and seed produc tion by intensive training programmes at various levels.

- Capacity building of KVKs/NGOs to interface between the scientific communi ty and the farming community.

Statement

Institutional Framework for the sub-programme

The proposed Hybrid Rice Research Network involving 13 research centres, seed agencies in public and private sector. NGOs, state departments of agriculture, international organisations etc. The agencies involved for defferent activities are given below.

I. Research Network

1. Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi.
2. Directorate of Rice Research, Hyderabad.
3. International Rice Research Institute, Philippines.

Northern Region

4. Rice Research Station, Kapurthala, Punjab (Punjab Agricultural Unviersity, Ludhiana).
5. Regional Research Station, Karnal, Haryana (Haryana Agricultural University, Hissar).
6. Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi.
7. G.B. Pant University of Agriculture and Technology, Pantnagar, Uttar Pradesh.

Southern Region

8. Regional Research Station, Mandya, Karnataka (University of Agricultru-al Sciences, Bangalore).
9. Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu.
10. Agricultural Research Station, Maruteru, Andhra Pradesh (Acharya N.G. Ranga Agricultural University, Hyderabad).

Eastern Region

11. Central Rice Research, Institute, Cuttack, Orissa.
12. Narendra Deva University of Agriucltural and Technology, Narendra nagar, Faizabad, Uttar Pradesh.
13. Rice Research Station, Chinsurah, West Bengal.

Western Region

14. Agricultural Research Station Karajat, Maharashtra (Monkan Krishi Vidyapeeth, Dapoli, Maharashtra).

II. Agencies involved in Large Scale Seed Production

1. Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi.
2. Hybrid Rice Research Network Centres, Public sector seed agencies (Born Centrar and State).
3. Private sector seed agencies.
4. State Universities of Agriculture, in the target areaes.
5. Krishi Vigyan Kendras in the target areas.
6. Non-Governmental Organisations (NGO) in the target areas.
7. Farmers' Co-operatives.
8. Departments of Agriculture of the concerned States in the target areas.

III. Agencies involved in transfer of technology

1. Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi.
2. Directorate of Rice Research, Hyderabad.
3. Hybrid Rice Research Network Centres.
4. MANAGE, Hyderabad.
5. State Universities of Agriculture in the target areas.
6. Departments of Agriculture of the concerned States in the target areas.
7. Krishi Vigyan Kendras in the target areas.
8. Non-Governmental Organisations (NGO) in the target areas.
9. Farmers' Training Centres in the target areas.

Deep Sea Fishing

1731. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether some foreign deep sea fishing companies are operating in Indian waters;

(b) if so, what are those fishing com panies;

(c) whether some Indian companies have also applied to the Government to operate in the deep sea Saters; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the permission granted to them to operate in the deep sea water?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) There are no foreign deep sea fishing companies operating in Indian waters. However, nine Indian companies have been permitted to operate 37 foreign deep sea fishing vessels on lease, of which 19 were in